

Concept Note

Regional Conference on “Decentralized Renewable Energy Solutions in the MENA Region: A Driver of Local Value and Job Creation”

Date: 22 May 2017

Venue: Hotel Intercontinental Semiramis, Cairo

Background

Energy security presents a major challenge for many Arab countries and is considered an indispensable requirement for inclusive, equitable, and sustainable term development. This includes first and foremost reliable and affordable access to modern energy services for the largest possible number of citizens, the lack of which can have – and in fact has had – profound negative impacts on the living conditions and working conditions of the latter.

Access to electricity is particularly challenging due to the weakness of power systems in many countries. Decentralized Renewable Energy (DRE) technologies in particular offer viable, cost-attractive and easy-to-implement solutions to meet the needs and wishes of residential and productive sectors, such as agriculture, tourism, and industry.

DRE technologies possess several key advantages: provided the right frameworks and incentives are in place, they allow for the rapid deployment of large new generation capacities (not just for electricity, but also for heating and cooling), including in difficult or remote areas, with an over-proportional creation of new local employment and a potentially large(r) implication of local populations in the value chain. This applies to small-scale PV (on- or off-grid), including for solar pumping and as fuel savers, solar heating and cooling, wind power, modern biomass for electricity and heat generation, as well as to a wide array of energy efficiency applications in the various concerned sectors.

However, they also involve several major challenges: people need to become aware and convinced of the opportunities they have, they have to be ready to invest and produce, and they need be able to deliver at the right time, in sufficient quantity and with the necessary quality. DRE technologies therefore require a quality infrastructure in place (and effect) *before or at least once the roll-out is started*. People need to be prepared and trained in order to have the necessary competences and capabilities, and quality criteria and control mechanisms need be set up in order to oversee and if necessary enforce this. The more people are involved in this process, the more imperative this becomes.

The promotion of decentralized renewable energy applications in the MENA region is therefore at the heart of the cooperation between the GIZ Project RE-ACTIVATE (Promoting employment through renewable energy and energy efficiency in the Middle East and North Africa) and the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE).

In order to allow for a targeted exchange among relevant stakeholders on both the energy-specific and the socio-economic potentials and opportunities of DRE. RE-ACTIVATE,

the League of Arab States (LAS) and RCREEE are organizing a regional event titled “Decentralized Renewable Energy Solutions in the MENA Region: A Driver of Local Value and Job Creation” on the 22nd of May a back-to-back with the Arab EE Day of LAS on the 21st of May.

Objectives

- Present which of the DRE applications are currently at the forefront of technological and industrial development, and how they have been able (or likely) to contribute to energy security and socio-economic development in key developing and emerging countries worldwide
- Highlight emerging market needs and potentials for DRE solutions in the Arab Region
- Explore which gaps and challenges need to be overcome in this regard
- Explore international and regional benchmarks and best practices
- Provide knowledge on the results of the studies conducted on a regional level to assess the applicability and the importance of the DRE solutions
- Share experiences and stimulate dialogues on appropriate solutions that can maximize the socio-economic benefits of DRE solutions in the Arab Region

Target Audience

The conference is mainly directed to decision and policy makers, public and private sector representatives, financing institutions and banks, experts and researchers, representatives from regional and international institutions, as well as media and civil society organizations.

Expected Outcomes

- Participants are aware of the main technological solutions in the DRE field
- Participants understand the main benefits - including in socio-economic terms – as well as the main tradeoffs and challenges of DRE
- Participants know concrete success factors and lessons learnt in this field
- Participants know interlocutors and cooperation partners in this field

DRAFT AGENDA

Time	Item	Speaker
09:00 - 09:30	Registration	
09:30- 10:00	Opening speeches Dr. Steffen Erdle; GIZ/RE-ACTIVATE Dr. Ahmed Badr; RCREEE Eng. Jamila Matar; LAS Dr. Mohamed Mousa Omran; NREA	
10:00 – 10:30	Setting the scene: DRE potential in the region	Steffen Erdle, GIZ/RE-Activate & Ulrike Lehr, GWS
10:30 - 11:30	First Session: Starting small, growing fast – DRE as a catalyst for RE deployment	Moderator: Maged Mahmoud, RCREEE
	- Jordan	Dianna Athmaneh, MEMR
	- Lebanon	Sourina Mourtada, LCEC
	- Tunisia	Ali Ben Abdallah, GIZ/RE- Activate
	- Mauritania	Cheikh Hamoud, RCREEE
11:30 - 12:00	Coffee Break	
12:00 - 13:00	Second Session: From niche to mainstream – PV markets in the Arab region	Moderator: Dieter Uh, GFA
	- Socio-economic impact study: value creation through small-scale PV in Morocco	Christoph Urbschat, Eclareon
	- Perspectives and challenges for roof-top PV development in the Arab region	Wael El-Nashar, ONERA
	- Perspectives and challenges of PV manufacturing in the Arab region	TBC
	- PV: increasing resilience in times of crisis	Ashish Khanna, World Bank
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00 - 15:00	Third Session: Promising but challenging - Solar heating markets in the Arab region	Moderator: Arnulf Knorr, GIZ/RCREEE
	- The SHAMCI Quality Scheme	Ashraf Kraidy, RCREEE

Time	Item	Speaker
	- Local SWH manufacturing in Tunisia	Ahmed Ernez, BSI Solar
	- Industrial process heat applications	Ali Abu Sennah, ENPC
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee Break	
15:30 – 16:30	Fourth Session: Classical yet underserved – Off-grid markets in the Arab region	Moderator : Hammou Laamrani, GIZ
	- Hybrid solar applications in the Egyptian hotel sector	Rana El-Guindy, RCREEE
	- A tentative assessment of the Egyptian solar pumping market	Inass Abo Khodeir, RCREEE
	- Introduction of PV-diesel hybrid solutions in off-grid agriculture and tourism in Egypt	Roman Brinzanik, Kraftwerk
	- Solar pumping experiences from Morocco and Tunisia	Dieter Uh, GFA
16:30 – 17:00	Wrap up & Closing: How to Use DRE for Growth and Benefit-Sharing in MENA	Steffen Erdle and Maged Mahmoud
19.00	Joint Dinner with Speakers and Organizers	